

Message Text

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UNCLAS TEHRAN 12578

FOR CU/YSS CU/NEA

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, USIRJC
SUBJ: PROBLEMS WITH STANDARDIZED TESTS IN IRAN

REF: STATE A-2783, STATE 294681, STATE 304252, STATE 306066

1. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S PHONING MRS. CATON AT EDUCATIONAL TESTING SERVICE PRINCETON NEW JERSEY, TO ADVISE THAT TEHRAN AMERICAN SCHOOL DID NOT ADMINISTER THE GRE TO ANY APPLICANTS FOR DECEMBER 11TH EXAMINATION, AND RETURNED ALL TESTS VIA APO PRIOR TO TEST DATE.

2. IN FOLLOWING AIRGRAM, EMBASSY REVIEWS PROBLEMS WITH GRE, TOEFL AND OTHER STANDARDIZED TESTS IN IRAN, AND MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS. BRIEFLY THESE ARE: (1) THAT ETS GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO SCHEDULING ITS TESTS ON THURSDAY OR FRIDAY INSTEAD OF SATURDAY, EVEN IF THIS MEANS PREPARING SPECIAL TESTS ONLY FOR IRAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN WHICH THE WORK-WEEK IS SATURDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY; (2) THAT NO WALK-IN, IE., DAY-OF-EXAMINATION REGISTRATION BE PERMITTED FOR ANY STANDARDIZED TEST; (3) THAT THE TOEFL BE GIVEN MORE FREQUENTLY. REASONS FOR CHANGE ARE THAT NUMBERS SEEKING TO TAKE SUCH EXAMINATIONS ARE MUCH LARGER THAN HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED, AND ARE LIKELY TO GROW. LONG QUEUES AT TEST SITES SEVERAL HOURS PRIOR TO
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REGISTRATION, AND UNRULY CROWDS SEEKING LAST-MINUTE ADMISSION TO TESTS POSE SERIOUS PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEMS.

3. MR. GERALD GOLDMAN (REF 3) AND MR. CLIFFORD SJOGREN (REF 2) SHOULD BE AWARE PROBLEMS WITH TESTS, AND SHOULD CONSULT WITH ETS PRIOR TO THEIR FORTHCOMING VISIT TO IRAN.

4. TEHRAN AMERICAN SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR WHO HANDLES GRE AND SUPERINTENDANT BOTH OUT OF COUNTRY FOR TWO WEEKS. EMBASSY THEREFORE UNABLE OBTAIN ANSWER TO QUESTION RAISED IN REF 4. HOWEVER IN DISCUSSIONS LAST WEEK WITH GUIDANCE COUNSELOR, IT CLEAR TAS NOT PREPARED TO COPE WITH NUMBERS ABOVE FIFTY IF EXAM GIVEN ON SATURDAY, WHICH IS REGULAR SCHOOL DAY IN IRAN. COMMUNITY SCHOOL WILLING IN PRINCIPAL ADMINISTER SUCH TESTS PROVIDED THEY CAN BE GIVEN ON THURSDAY. CANNOT ADMINISTER ON SATURDAY.
HELMS

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